

"We must not allow our economic challenges to undermine our moral courage."

Washington, Feb 26 - U.S. Congressman Mike Pence made the following statement today in response to a new report by the U.S.



Congressman Pence,
speaking at today's press
event on the new report about
human rights practices
around the world

Department of State on international human rights practices:

"This new report by the State Department reminds us of the work that still remains to advance the cause of human freedom. People around the world continue to fight against ruthless oppression and cry out for help. It is imperative that the United States, and the rest of the free world, do all that they can to deliver hope to those fighting for freedom.

"I am deeply troubled by Secretary Clinton's recent comments that state her willingness to place our own financial interests above the interests of freedom in China. China has a long history of criminalizing political and religious expression and forcing the deaths of millions of unborn children. As Ronald Reagan once said, 'We cannot diminish the value of one category of human life - the unborn - without diminishing the value of all human life.' Our nation cannot diminish the value of human rights in our efforts to confront a financial crisis.

"The United States has a responsibility to speak truth to power, and to speak with one voice that these actions are unacceptable. We must not allow our economic challenges to undermine our moral courage. I call upon Secretary Clinton and President Obama to renew our nation's longstanding commitment to personal and political freedom for the people of China, and to prevent our economic interests from clouding our moral responsibilities."

